

APPLICATION FOR COUNTY ONE CENT FUNDS
FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Child Advocacy Services of the Big Horns **PHONE:** 307-675-2272

CONTACT PERSON: Nadine Gale, Board President
ADDRESS: PO Box 6022 429 W. Alger St. Sheridan, WY 82801

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$80,000.00 (\$20,000.00 per year) **AMOUNT APPROVED:** _____

TAX STATUS: 501 C 3 **FEDERALNO:** 86-0687212 **EMAIL:** casadevelopment@fiberpipe.net

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: The mission of Child Advocacy Services of the Big Horns is to work with volunteers, families and the community to advocate for and support safe, nurturing, permanent homes and relationships for children.

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS: Prospective board members are identified by the nominating committee based upon the current needs of the organization. Members of this committee interview prospective board members, provide them with information about our organization, the expectations of board members and a board application. The completed applications are reviewed and voted on by the current Board of Directors.

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: 8 **TERM:** 3 years

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS: Nadine Gale, president; Jennie Gordon, vice-president; Ben Kirven, secretary; Joyce Schmidt, treasurer; Glen Wright, member; Dr. Theresa Faulkner, member; Chip King, member; Cindi Williams, member

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason the County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens to benefit):

We are requesting funds to continue to provide the CASA Program (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and the Family Visitation Program in Sheridan County. Child Advocacy Services utilizes a broad-base of funding sources to accomplish our mission for the children and families of our community - - including federal and state grants, local foundations, fundraising activities and cultivating relationships with individual donors. Because of the strong benefits of our services to the community, we are applying for both City and County 1 cent funding..

The need for CASA services continues to grow, and we anticipate serving approximately 120 children each year in Sheridan. CASA volunteers are appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge for every child in Sheridan County who is in the child welfare system due to child abuse and neglect. CASA advocates for the children, ensures that their needs are met, and provides the Judge with the critical information he needs to make decisions in the best interest in the children.

The demands on the CASBH to meet the needs of Sheridan County families through our Family Visitation program also continues to grow. Sometimes families have difficulty handling visitation arrangements on their own because of issues such as foster placement, parental conflict, substance abuse and mental health difficulties. Our visitation services allow children to build and maintain family relationships in a safe and supportive setting until these problems are resolved. In 2009, in Sheridan Child Advocacy Services provided 659 custody exchanges and 1,105 hours of supervised visitation. We anticipate serving approximately 60 families (80 children) in Sheridan in 2010, and that it will continue to grow each year.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested):

| AMOUNT | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| \$10,000.00 | To provide CASA advocacy for 12 children. (The cost to provide a CASA to a child for one year is approximately \$840.00.) |
| \$10,000.00 | To provide approximately 200 hours of visitation services for families in Sheridan County. |
| <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> | |
| \$20,000.00 per year | |

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO SHERIDAN COUNTY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

1. CASA advocates are Officers of the Juvenile Court providing valuable information to the judge about the needs, actions and accommodations in the best interest of the child who has been victimized by abuse and/or neglect. Children who are supported by CASA advocates spend less time in foster care, receive more needed services and are more likely to find permanent, safe homes. CASA volunteers contributed 1,858 volunteer service hours to the children of Sheridan in 2009.

2. The Family Visitation Program reduces the number of custody cases returning to Court, because our staff provides families with a cooperative problem solving process to address their disagreements regarding visitation. Research has shown (Scott, Booth, King & Johnson, 2007) that maintaining contact between non-custodial parents and children increases the propensity of the parent to make child support payments, reduces the time the children spend in foster care and improves parenting skills.

3. Family Visitation Services provides emotional and physical safety for children in families affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, child abuse and neglect and other difficult circumstances outside the control of the children. Many organizations including the Circuit Court, District Court, Child Support Authority, Department of Family Services, Advocacy & Resource Center, many local attorneys and mental health professionals rely on the services provided by our organization.

4. Our agency promotes safety and permanency for our most vulnerable citizens, our at-risk children, many of whom are victims of child abuse and neglect. It is these children who will be the future of Sheridan and deserve our commitment to their well-being.

**DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO ONE CENT
OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):**

1. In 2009, the CASA Program served 74 children in Sheridan County. We also trained 7 new CASA volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected Sheridan children.

2. Our volunteer retention rate remained at 95% due to the dedication of volunteers, improved communication with volunteers, increased training and support and annual volunteer performance feedback provided by the CASA Program staff.

3. In 2009 CASBH Family Visitation Program in Sheridan County conducted 659 custody exchanges and accomplished 676 supervised/monitored visits, for a total of 1,764 hours of direct service. Most importantly all services were provided to children and families in a safe, conflict free environment and without any incident or action that would be detrimental to the emotional and physical well being of the children.

4. In 2009, Child Advocacy Services brought the "Forgotten Children" display to Sheridan to raise community awareness of the issue of child abuse and neglect in our community. Ninety-seven life sized cutouts of children were displayed throughout the community to represent the 97 children CASA had served the previous year in this community.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

Child Advocacy Services of the Big Horns is also applying for the City of Sheridan Optional One Cent Funds to support the ongoing operation of our programs serving children and families. Our application to the City of Sheridan is for \$12,500.00 per fiscal year.

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement):**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable)**

SIGNED: Susan Cannon

Title: Development Coordinator and
Interim Director

Date: March 31, 2016

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION. You may provide additional information if you wish.